

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed April 21, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over MacKenzie et al. (US Pub. 2004/0200809) in view of Iida et al. (USP 5,874,707).

The rejection of the claims relies in part upon MacKenzie et al., which has a date of priority of April 7, 2003. Applicant has enclosed herewith a 37 C.F.R. §1.131 Declaration from the Inventor of the above-captioned Application, Mr. Joseph Schneider, along with supporting documentation, which collectively evidence a date of conception prior to April 7, 2003 and diligence to the filing date of the present Application. Accordingly, MacKenzie et al. is believed to not be prior art against the above-captioned Application. Without MacKenzie et al., there are no outstanding rejections to the claims. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 1-29 are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance.

Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-29.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by credit card authorization being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2623. Please consider this a general authorization to charge any fee that is due in this case, if not otherwise timely paid, to Deposit Account No. 50-2623.